

# United States Air Force Auxiliary

## Minnesota Wing, Civil Air Patrol



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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Breezy Point, Minnesota) -- The Civil Air Patrol's Minnesota Wing held its 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Awards Banquet at the Breezy Point Resort near Brainerd from 3-5 May. Approximately 395 of the Wing's more than 1300 members attended.

Several dozen members gathered on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> for the wedding of 2d Lt Tracy Brooks and Captain Doug Mitchell. Chaplain Don Mikitta led the service and the Minnesota Wing Honor Guard provided the Saber Arch.

On Friday evening members began to gather and trainings sessions were held for Emergency Services Personnel. The Cadet Advisory Council met and elected new officers for the 2002-2003 term. After this meeting the senior cadet leadership from each unit gathered for a leader development meeting.

On Saturday morning, the Wing followed tradition by holding the Conference General Session at 8:00 AM. Master of Ceremonies, Col Kevin Sliwinski, called more than 350 Wing members and guests to order to watch the Anoka County Composite Squadron post the colors. The Color Guard represented the Wing at the 2002 North Central Region Cadet Competition. Chaplain (Lt Col) Tom Boyer gave the invocation.

Col Dale Hoium, the Minnesota Wing Commander, was the first speaker. He thanked the Minnesota Wing for its spirit of cooperation over the past year especially since the 9-11 attacks. He commended the wing for its readiness and willingness to prepare for the challenges coming in the future.

Mr. Ray Rought of the Minnesota Division of Aeronautics spoke to the conference about CAP's contributions to Aviation in Minnesota and thanked members for their dedication.

Col John Rooney, the North Central Region Director of Operations spoke next. Col Rooney represented Col Sheila Waldorf, the NCR Commander. Col Waldorf was at the National Executive Committee Meeting at Maxwell AFB. Col Rooney spoke about the accomplishments of the wing in the past year and commended the wing for all of its hard work especially in support of the 3 CAP Missions.

Lt Col Greg Tanoff spoke about the changes coming to the Cap and USAF relationship. He introduced the new State Director, Mr. Bill Willis and the Assistant Director, Me. Jeff Borseth. Willis and Borseth were formally CAP Corporate employees. Under the new Statement of Work these positions became civil service employees. Their function remains much the same but some of the rules are different. Colonel Tanoff assured the wing that they would receive the same great service and assistance as before.

Col Gerry Quilling gave his safety briefing to the wing. He thanked all of the pilots who have completed their flight clinics and WINGS programs. After Col Quilling's briefing there was an intermission and members broke off into senior and cadet education sessions.

CAP'S safety record and cost is attractive to the US Air Force and other agencies. Minnesota Liaison Officer for the Air Force Emergency Preparedness, Col. William Schuessler, spoke of the advantages of using CAP services as opposed to using other services. For example, it costs \$1465 per hour to use a Black Hawk helicopter versus \$50 to \$70 per hour to use a CAP Cessna Aircraft. The basic difference in performance is the spot landing ability of the helicopter versus using a landing strip for the Cessna. He went on to mention some of the specialized capabilities that CAP has: approximately 7000 aircraft, 47,000 members, 1000 vehicles, 6000 communication pieces, slow scan cameras, nuclear indicator devices and the fact that CAP is scattered all over the country. He said that CAP is a huge asset and support resource.

On the cadet side Chaplain Mikitta conducted a motivational meeting that included presentation of the Air Force Association and Air Force Sergeant's Association medals to deserving cadets.

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After the Breakout sessions Lt Col John Quilling presided over the Luncheon and Specialist Award Presentations. Colonel Hoium presented awards to the following outstanding unit specialists;

Specialty Area	Awardees
Administration	Capt Joleen Stadslev, Viking Squadron
Aerospace Education	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Al Matson, Viking Squadron
Chaplain	Chaplain, Captain, Donald Stier, Valley Squadron
Communications	Major David Kenan, St Croix Squadron
Communications – Cadet	C/Captain Benjamin Banwart, Viking Squadron
Emergency Services	Major Richard Josephson, St Cloud Sr Squadron
Finance	2d Lt Beverly Owen, Crow Wing Squadron
Historian	Major Andrew Browning, Red Wing Squadron
Logistics	2d Lt Tracy Brooks, St Croix Squadron
Operations	1 <sup>st</sup> Lt Michael Owen, Crow Wing Squadron
Personnel	Captain Jane Dahlquist, St Croix Squadron
Professional Development	Chaplain, Lt Col, Donald Haarup, Crow Wing Squadron

C/Lt Col Peggy Schnack of North Hennepin Squadron received the North Central Region nomination for the Frank G. Brewer Aerospace Education Award.

Following lunch, conference attendees chose either to attend breakout sessions, Cadet Education Sessions or the Specialty Fair. All Wing Directorates had booths at the well-attended Specialty Fair. This fair provides unit program specialists the change to get some “face time” with their wing level counterpart. It is also the chance for the wing staff sections to “show their wares” to the members and provide the membership with updated program information

At 7:00 PM, attendees and their guests gathered for a reception before the evening's banquet. Banquet speakers were retired Air Force Major General Doyle Larson and Col Dale Hoium, the Minnesota Wing Commander.

The Minnesota Wing Honor Guard performed before the Awards program.

Several Minnesota members were recognized for outstanding service in 2001.

Award	Recipient
Lt Gen Ira Eaker Award	C/Lt Col Keelan Diehl, Crow Wing Squadron
Wilbur Coffin Memorial Award	Major Craig Lommel, North Star Cadet Squadron
Dunbar Communications Memorial Award	1st Lt Mark Banwart, Viking Squadron
Dorothy Sindelar Memorial Award	Major Carl Hallum, Worthington Squadron
Meritorious Service Award	Major Todd Mandel, Red Wing Squadron
Family of the Year	The Erickson Family, Viking Squadron
Cadet NCO of the Year	C/2d Lt David Burgio, St Croix Squadron
Cadet of the Year & Air Force Torch Award	C/MAJ Keelan Diehl, Crow Wing Squadron
NCR Air Force Torch Award - Mentor	Capt Beth Pfingsten, Crow Wing Squadron
Unit Commander of the Year	Captain Jay Craswell, 130th Squadron
National Squadron of Merit	Valley Cadet Squadron
Unit of the Year	Anoka County Composite Squadron
Wing Staff Member of the Year	1st Lt Al Pabon Minnesota Wing Headquarters
Senior Member of the Year	Lt Col Barney Uhlig, Viking Squadron

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General Larson presented Cadet Diehl with his Eaker Award. After the presentation the General spoke about the importance of Civil Air Patrol as the USAF Auxiliary and on Homeland Defense.

After the awards program members attended the annual cadet organized Military Ball.

On Sunday morning, the Wing Commander hosted a commander's call for all unit commanders. Col Rex Glasgow, the Iowa Wing Commander conducted an Emergency Services Trainers Course.

The "Conducting Train the Trainer" class equips graduates to teach the "Train the Trainer" course. TTT's are vital to the new ES Curriculum. They are the only ones authorized to sign off task completion on the CAP Form 101T. This form certifies that a trainee has completed all of the tasks, to standard for the chosen ES Specialty.

The next Wing Conference will be held at the Breezy Point Resort on 2-4 May 2002. As Col Hoium said, "Put it on your calendar now. For those of you who went this year, tell your fellow members, go, it's worth it!"